

**Town of Mansfield Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center and Meeting of the signatories of the COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT for Parking Enforcement in and adjacent to Storrs Center Development, Mansfield, CT**

**Special Meeting  
Wednesday, April 15, 2015  
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office  
23 Royce Circle**

**6:00 PM**

**Minutes**

Members Present: Karla Fox (Chair), Manny Haidous, Alex Marcellino, Ralph Pemberton

Ex-Officio Members and Staff Present: John Carrington, Debbie Lastro, and Cynthia van Zelm

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Karla Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2015**

There was no quorum to approve the minutes.

**3. Remarks from the Chair**

Ms. Fox asked for an update on enforcement from the last meeting.

**4. Review and Discussion of Current Parking Enforcement (including potential appeal fee), and Next Steps**

Cynthia van Zelm said the Town's intern Jayhon Ghassem-Zadeh had done some research on whether other towns in Connecticut had implemented a fee if someone wanted to appeal a parking ticket, besides Hartford. He found that Hartford was the only city that had implemented this fee. The Committee agreed, by consensus, that it did not recommend implementing this fee in Mansfield at this time.

Ms. van Zelm said that Mr. Ghassem-Zadeh had also researched how Mansfield's parking fees stack up against other municipalities over 20,000 in population. She said Mansfield's fees are generally higher, and \$20 to \$30 higher for parking in a bus stop, parking causing a traffic hazard, parking in violation of a snow ordinance, parking in a fire lane, parking in handicapped space, and parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant. Ms. van Zelm said she plans to talk to Town Manager Matt Hart about whether he wants to review this further.

Debbie Lastro said the Town parking staff team had met earlier in the day and continued to discuss enforcement. She said one of the issues is that it is hard to track people who might be moving their car a few times a day on Storrs Road. Ms. Lastro said that Town staff was following up with Complus on whether their ticketing system can “mark the tire” with its camera initially and not just at ticketing. For now, LAZ Parking staff will note a location i.e., North side of Storrs Road, South side of Storrs Road when tracking a car.

Ms. Lastro said the Town Collections office did see a decline in appeals that are upheld.

Ms. van Zelm said the Town staff is also working to ensure that Complus is sending out letters to violators.

Ms. Lastro also reported that T&B Motors is not willing to hold a car to see if tickets have been paid (once tow fee paid) as required in the Town ordinance. It is being reviewed as to how this might be addressed.

Alex Marcellino noted that he is also a member of the Town’s Economic Development Commission and they are meeting with businesses in town about their concerns and questions. He noted that a few businesses in Storrs Center were not aware that there is 2 hour free parking in the parking garage. *See below under Frequently Asked Questions.*

Ms. Lastro said she will talk to LAZ Parking about enforcing the Dog Lane lot overnight once a month to track activity there.

## **5. Review of DRAFT Annual Report**

There were no changes to the draft Annual Report.

## **6. Parking Frequently Asked Questions**

John Carrington noted that one of the links in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) was not working. Ms. van Zelm will change and finalize the FAQs. She said they will be placed on the Partnership’s website, and distributed to the Oaks on the Square apartments, Storrs Center businesses, and the parking hearings officers.

## **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

*Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.*